Bryopsis foliosa Sonder

50.670

Techniques needed and shape

Classification Phylum: Chlorophyta; Order: Bryopsidales; Family: Bryopsidaceae

***Descriptive name** green plumes

Features

1. plants are bright green, shining when dry, 40 – 150mm tall
2. several upright stalks (axes) arise from branching rhizoids.
3. there are ***numerous, short***, side stalks, often denuded below
4. ultimate branches (ramuli) on the stalks are ***dense*** and ***radially*** arranged

Variations side stalks may be in ***2 opposite rows*** on epiphytic plants

Special requirements:

1. view the rarely-divided (***coenocytic***) filaments microscopically
2. measure the main stalks (axes): they should be about ***0.4 – 1.0mm*** across

Occurrences

only in W. Australia, from near Perth to Rottnest I. and Hamelin Bay

Usual Habitat on rock in the lower intertidal and on seagrasses. This species is included because of the similarity to other more southern species

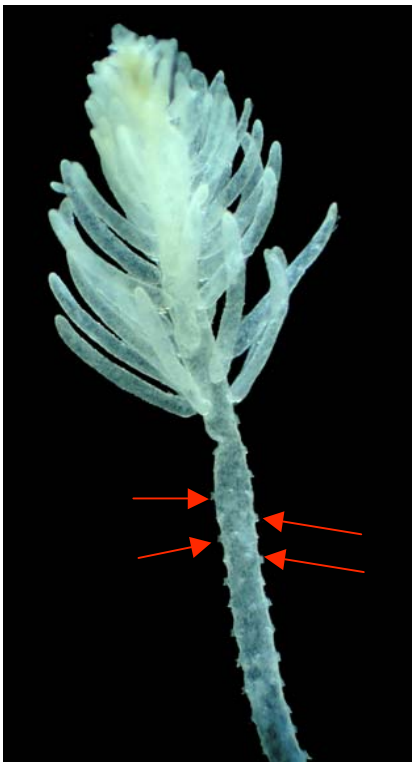
Similar Species *Bryopsis vestita* has similar radial branching, but has longer stalks, fewer side branches, and the ramuli are not as dense. The occasional opposite ramuli on lower axes indicates a possible hybridization with *Bryosis gemellipara*

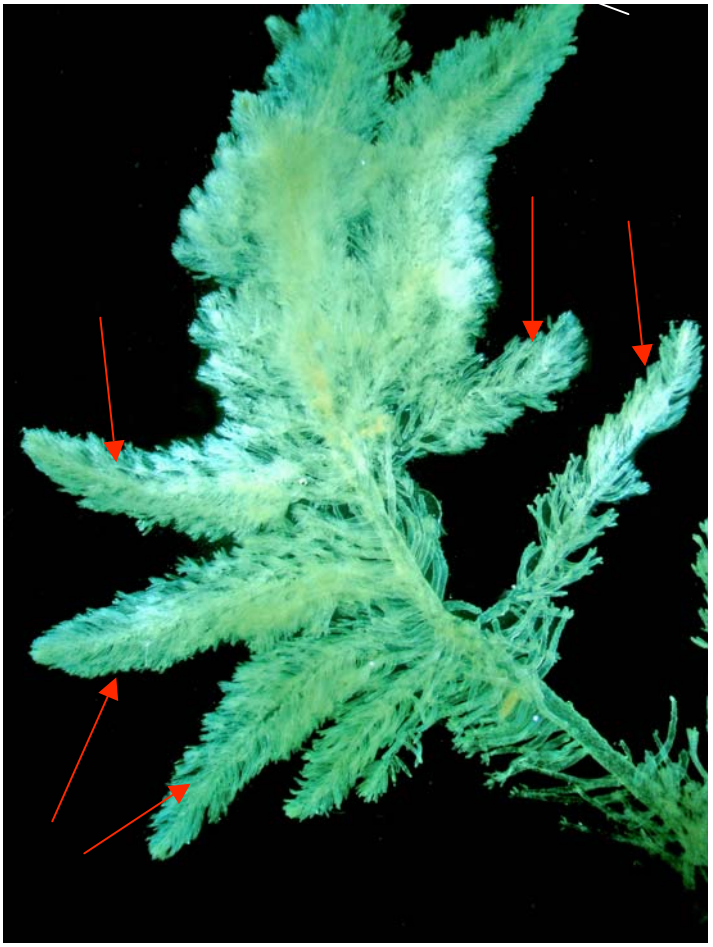
Description in the Benthic Flora Part I, pages 278-281

Details of Anatomy

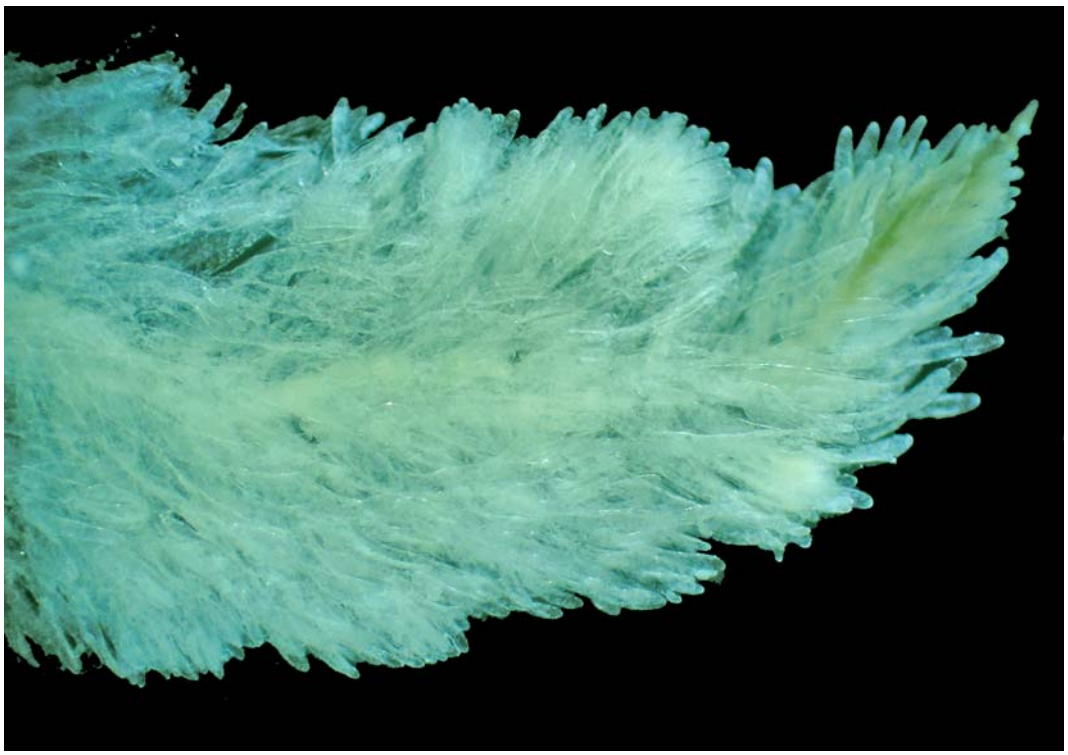
A preserved (bleached) specimen of *Bryopsis foliosa* (A50703), from Pt Peron, W. Australia

1. detached side branch denuded below, showing prominent scars (arrowed). The ultimate branches (ramul)i) are densely radially or irregularly arranged.
2. single main stalk (axis) with numerous side branches (arrowed) densely clothed with radially branched ultimate branches (ramuli)





* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used



3, 4. Specimens of *Bryopsis foliosa* Sonder from Pt Peron, W. Australia

3. whole plant (A50704)
4. A preserved (bleached) specimen (A50703), showing the dense ramuli at the tips, arranged radially.

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"Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, July 2005